

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Claims 1 and 6, cancel Claim 4, and add new Claim 15 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing from a recording medium a plurality of image data which has been recorded in a plurality of independent areas on the recording medium and specified so as to be reproduced in predetermined order, said reproducing means having a pickup mechanism for seeking said independent areas on said recording medium prior to said reproducing of image data;

a memory for storing the image data reproduced by said reproducing means;

memory control means for controlling a writing and a read-out of said image data into/from said memory; and

mode setting means for switching between first and second modes on the basis of positions of said plurality of areas on said recording medium and on a basis of a time for said seeking between said areas by said pickup mechanism, wherein, a in said first mode ~~in which~~ the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced by said reproducing means in an order different from said predetermined order and written in said memory and the image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is read out from said memory in said predetermined order by said memory control means, and ~~a~~ in said second

mode in which the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced in said predetermined order by said reproducing means and written in said memory and the image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is read out from said memory in said predetermined order by said memory control means.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said reproducing means reproduces TOC data indicative of the positions of said plurality of areas on said recording medium from said recording medium, and said mode setting means switches said first and second modes on the basis of said TOC data reproduced by said reproducing means.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said predetermined order is specified in accordance with said TOC data.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said mode setting means further switches said first and second modes on the basis of an amount of image data which can be stored in said memory.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said mode setting means discriminates whether the image data can be continuously read out

from said memory in said predetermined order in the case where said image data is reproduced in said first mode, ~~or not on the basis of the positions of said plurality of areas~~ and switches between said first and second modes on the basis of a result of said discrimination.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said mode setting means further switches said first and second modes on the basis of program data indicative of a reproducing procedure of said image data from said plurality of areas and the positions of said plurality of areas.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said predetermined order is specified in accordance with said program data.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reproducing means reproduces said program data from said recording medium.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said memory is also used as a shockproof memory.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image data has been encoded by an MPEG system and said memory stores said encoded image data.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said recording medium includes a disc medium.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said recording medium includes an optical disc medium of a zone CAV system.

14. (Previously Presented) A reproducing apparatus comprising:
reproducing means for reproducing a plurality of image data which has been recorded in a plurality of independent areas on a disk-shaped recording medium and specified so as to be reproduced in predetermined order, from said disk-shaped recording medium by using a pickup mechanism;
a memory for storing the image data reproduced by said reproducing means;
memory control means for reading out the image data stored in said memory in said predetermined order; and
control means for controlling whether the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced in order different from said predetermined order and written in said memory or not, on the basis of position information indicative of positions of said plurality of areas on said disk-shaped recording medium, a capacity of said memory, and a seeking time between said plurality of areas by said pickup mechanism.

15. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said predetermined order is specified in accordance with a play list indicative of a reproducing procedure for reproducing the image data in a desired order.